

KRNB lects

KRNB lects (or **Kamta**, **Rajbanshi** and **Northern Bangla lects**) are modern **lects** that arose from the proto-Kamata language. The proto-Kamata language began differentiating after 1250 around Kamatapur, the capital city of Kamata kingdom, as the western branch of the proto-Kamarupa, whereas the eastern branch developed into proto-Assamese, which finally yielded the modern Assamese language. Kamrupi is today one of the western dialects of Assamese.^[2] Kamatapuri is represented by group of modern lects,^{[3][4]} termed variously Kamtapuri (West Bengal), Rangpuri (Bangladesh), Rajbanshi (West Bengal) and Surjapuri (Bihar).^[5]

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Origin

The development of proto-Kamta was the result of Sandhya, a ruler of Kamarupanagara (North Guwahati), Kamrup moving his capital^{[8][9]} to Kamatapur and establishing the Kamata kingdom, thus carrying the native language along with.

Region

The modern KRNB lects are spoken primarily in western Assam, northern West Bengal, northern Bangladesh, north-eastern Bihar and south-eastern Nepal.^[5]

Notes

- Toulmin 2006

KRNB lects	
Kamatapuri lects	
Native to	India, Bangladesh, Nepal
Region	Northern West Bengal, Western Assam, North Eastern Bihar, Northern Bangladesh, Southeast Nepal
Language family	Indo-European <div>▪ Indo-Iranian<div>▪ Indo-Aryan<div>▪ Eastern<div>▪ Bengali–Assamese<div>▪ Kamarupic<div>▪ Western Kamarupic^[1]<div>▪ KRNB lects</div></div></div></div></div></div></div>



The speakers are distributed unevenly, as shown in the map.^[6]

2. Toulmin, Mathew W S (2006), *Reconstructing linguistic history in a dialect continuum: The Kamta, Rajbanshi, and Northern Deshi Bangla subgroup of Indo-Aryan* (Ph.D.), Australian National University, p. 14: "Kamrupa: Chatterjee (1926) uses this term to refer to the stage of linguistic history ancestral to both Asamiya and KARNB. In the present study, Kamrupa is used with the same meaning, and is not considered synonymous with KARNB which is a further development (cf. section 7.3.4. N. Das (2001) maintains that 'Kamrupa' or 'Kamrupi' is a more fitting title than 'Kamta' for KARNB varieties. However, the term 'Kamrupi' is most popularly used today to denote the western dialect of Asamiya spoken in the greater Kamrup region of Assam (cf. Goswami 1970). It seems well fitted to denote both (1) the modern lect of the greater Kamrup region of Western Assam (east of the KARNB area), as well as (2) the historical lect ancestral to both KARNB and Asamiya. In this study I refer to the western dialect of Asamiya as Kamrupi, and the historical ancestor of proto-Kamata and proto-Asamiya as proto-Kamrupa."



The proto-languages of the eastern Magadhan languages. Kamarupa Prakrit corresponds to ?proto-Kamarupa here, a hitherto unreconstructed proto-language. The period corresponds to earlier than 1250 CE, when proto-Kamata began to innovate unique features.^[7]

3. (Toulmin 2006, p. iv)
4. (Toulmin 2006, p. 283)
5. Hernández-Campoy, Juan Manuel; Conde-Silvestre, Juan Camilo (2012-02-15). *The Handbook of Historical Sociolinguistics* (<https://books.google.com/?id=zc77l8CMgTYC&pg=PA508&dq=surjapuri+lects#v=onepage&q=surjapuri%20lects&f=false>). ISBN 9781118257265.
6. (Toulmin 2006, p. 5)
7. Proto-Kamta took its inheritance from ?proto-Kamarupa (and before that from ?proto-Gauda-Kamarupa), innovated the unique features ... in 1250-1550 AD" (Toulmin 2006:306)
8. Toulmin, Mathew W S (2006), *Reconstructing linguistic history in a dialect continuum: The Kamta, Rajbanshi, and Northern Deshi Bangla subgroup of Indo-Aryan* (Ph.D.), p.8, The Australian National University Morphological reconstructions in chapter 5-6 provides diagnostic evidence for a common historical stage to the 8 KARNB lects examined in those chapter. On sociohistorical grounds, this stage is termed 'proto-Kamta' in chapter 7 and assigned the chronology of c1250-1550-sandwiched between the establishment of the Kamarupa capital at Kamatapur in 1250 AD and the political (plausibly linguistic) expansion under Koch king Nara Narayan in 1550 AD.
9. (Toulmin 2006, p. 282)

References

- Toulmin, Mathew W S (2006). *Reconstructing linguistic history in a dialect continuum: The Kamta, Rajbanshi, and Northern Deshi Bangla subgroup of Indo-Aryan* (<https://digitalcollection.s.anu.edu.au/handle/1885/45743>) (Ph.D.). The Australian National University.

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